





carrying the United States mail before the days of the railroad."¹

THE PONY EXPRESS



PONY EXPRESS RIDER PURSUED BY INDIANS

This fast mail service went over the overland stage route, passing through Fort Kearney, Fort Laramie, Fort Bridger, Great Salt Lake, Camp Floyd, Carson City, Washoe Silver mines, over the Sierra Nevada through a pass at the head of Carson River, and via Placerville to Sacramento.

The purpose was to carry the mail from Missouri to California in ten days. But even better time than that was made. The record achievement came when the news of Lincoln's inauguration was rushed over the 1,950 miles in seven days and seventeen hours. The riders had to average fifteen miles an hour. This included time to change horses, eat, detour when forced to, and ward off Indian attacks. Therefore, much of the time twenty miles an hour had to be maintained.

When the rider arrived at each station, he found his sleek, fresh horse saddled and bridled. In two minutes he had to change his mail to the new pony and be on his way again. He became so efficient that he often

¹ Levi Edgar Young, *The Founding of Utah*, 397-398.

ing the United States mail before the days of the
 "dead."

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